



Village of Alliance

Dissolution Study

May 2008

Alberta Municipal Affairs

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What is municipal dissolution?

Dissolution is a legal process under the province's *Municipal Government Act*. This process occurs when a municipality gives up its status as an incorporated municipality to become part of a bordering municipality.

The Village of Alliance (the village) is an incorporated municipality. This means that within its defined boundaries, the village council has the power to pass bylaws, the responsibility to provide services to residents, and the authority to collect property taxes and other revenues to support those services.

If Alliance were to dissolve, it would no longer be a municipality, but would become a hamlet in Flagstaff County (the county). The county council would then be responsible for governing, serving, and taxing the residents of Alliance in addition to the population that it already serves.

What is a dissolution study?

A dissolution study is a report to assist Alberta's Minister of Municipal Affairs in deciding if a proposed dissolution should proceed.

The Village of Alliance dissolution study highlights what residents could expect to happen if their municipality were to dissolve. It looks at the municipal functions, services, financial situation, and community issues in the Village of Alliance.

The study compares how the village provides services and how the county would provide those services to Alliance residents if the village were to dissolve and become a hamlet in the county.

The areas that are examined in this report include the possible changes to service levels, council representation, administration, and municipal finances.

Alberta Municipal Affairs obtained the information for this dissolution study from the councils and administrations of the village and county, and from provincial records.

Why consider a dissolution study?

In 2001, the former Minister of Municipal Affairs received a sufficient petition from electors in the Village of Alliance. A dissolution study for the village was conducted in 2001. As part of that study, a vote on the question of dissolution was conducted. The outcome was 41.5 per cent in favour and 58.5 per cent opposed to dissolution. After considering the information gathered from the public and the village and county councils, and the results of a vote, the Minister of the day decided not to recommend the dissolution of Alliance to the provincial cabinet at that time.

On August 22, 2007, the Minister of Municipal Affairs received a sufficient petition, from electors of the Village of Alliance, requesting a dissolution study and initiated a dissolution study as required under section 130(2)(b) of the *Municipal Government Act*.

What is the existing situation in Alliance?

Alliance was incorporated as a village on August 26, 1918. It is located approximately 200 kilometers southeast of Edmonton next to the junction of highways 602 and 36. Flagstaff County is the village's rural neighbour. According to Ministry records, the village's population is 197 in 2008. This reflects an increase of 15.2 per cent since 2003; however, overall there has been a decrease in population of 10.5 per cent since 1998.

Residents elect three councillors to govern the village. The village council appoints the mayor annually at its organizational meeting.

At their March 13, 2008, meeting, the Board of Trustees of the Battle River School Division #31 decided that the Alliance School will be closed as of June 30, 2008.

Students from Alliance will be directed to attend the Central High Sedgewick Public School.

The Board will enter into discussions with the community about the future use of the school building.

What is the financial situation in Alliance?

Note: *The following financial information is taken from the Village of Alliance's audited municipal financial statements from 2002 to 2006, from Financial Information Returns (FIR) and from the Alberta Capital Finance Authority's records.*

Operating Fund

The following table summarizes the village's operating revenues and operating expenditures from 2002 to 2006:

Year	Total Revenue	Total Expenditures	Net Revenue (Expenditure)
2002	\$271,193	\$228,084	\$43,109
2003	\$269,843	\$232,864	\$36,979
2004	\$269,179	\$210,512	\$58,667
2005	\$289,286	\$212,785	\$76,501
2006	\$318,134	\$281,532	\$36,602

The table shows an annual trend that the village brings in sufficient operating revenues to cover the operating expenditures.

On December 31, 2006, the village's operating fund balance was \$175,667.

Capital Reserves

Reserves help a municipality plan and pay for future projects or emergency repairs. If reserves are not sufficient, a municipality may have to fund capital projects or emergency repairs from other sources such as taxation or by borrowing.

On December 31, 2006, the village held capital reserves of \$122,262.

Debt

The village has one loan from the Alberta Capital Finance Authority that was used to fund a new water supply system in 2001.

According to the Alberta Capital Finance Authority, the amount of village debt remaining on December 28, 2007, was \$81,425.

The annual payment on the loan is \$8,896. This existing debt will be paid off in 2021.

Equalized Property Tax Assessment

Equalized assessment is a uniform way of comparing property wealth for all municipalities and is calculated by Alberta Municipal Affairs.

The village's equalized property assessment for 2008 is \$4,909,617. It has increased by three per cent from 2004 to 2008. The assessment base is comprised of approximately 55 per cent residential and 45 per cent non-residential assessment.

Net Municipal Property Tax

The net municipal property tax levy is the amount of money required from the property assessment base to support the village's operations. In 2007, the tax levy was \$126,359. This amount does not include requisitions for education or the seniors' foundation.

Between 2003 and 2007, the village's expenditures have remained fairly constant. The smallest tax levy was \$112,867 in 2006 and the largest was \$127,762 in 2003.

This shows that the amount collected from property taxation has not changed significantly over the past five years.

Tables 1 and 2, on pages 10 and 11, show the property taxes that owners of sample residential and non-residential properties in Alliance paid to the village, and could have expected to pay if Alliance had been a hamlet in Flagstaff County in 2007.

It is important to note that if dissolution occurs and future county tax rate bylaws are applied in Alliance, an annual special levy could be placed on Alliance properties to cover the village debt until it is paid off in 2021.

What would remain the same if the village dissolves?

- 911 Service
- Ambulance Service
- Electrical Power and Gas Utility Providers and Franchise Agreements
- Family and Community Support Services
- Garbage Collection
- RCMP Service
- Safety Codes Inspection Services

What would change if Alliance dissolves?

If the village dissolves, the county would provide services to residents in the hamlet of Alliance. At this time, Flagstaff County serves a rural community. There are no hamlets or high-density residential subdivisions in the county.

Potential changes to services in Alliance include the following:

Alliance Library

Currently, the Alliance Municipal Library Board operates the library. The village is a member of the Parkland Regional Library which provides services to the municipal library. The village provides a per capita contribution to the library and to the regional library system. The library is located in the recreation centre. The village owns and insures the building and contents.

In accordance with the *Alberta Libraries Act*, the Alliance Library Board would dissolve at the time of the village dissolution. Assets owned by the village would become the county's property and those owned by the Parkland Regional Library System would be returned to the system.

Upon dissolution, Flagstaff County would evaluate the possibility of maintaining a library in Alliance. If possible, Flagstaff County would like to see the library continue to offer services.

If the library closed, residents would be able to use other libraries in the area such as Forestburg, Galahad, Killam, Hardisty, Loughheed, and Sedgewick.

Assets and Liabilities

On December 31, 2006, the village had liquid financial assets of \$512,027. These include cash, receivables, and land for resale. Additional assets include such things as buildings and public works equipment.

On December 31, 2006, the village had financial liabilities of \$299,107. These include such things as long-term debt, deferred revenue, and accounts payable by the village.

Upon dissolution, the village assets and liabilities would transfer to the county.

The county would be required to deposit cash and any proceeds from the sale of Alliance assets into a special reserve used only to reduce liability incurred by the Village of Alliance, or for projects in Alliance.

Business Licenses

The village's annual business license costs \$25.

Upon dissolution, although Flagstaff County does not have a business license bylaw and does not issue business licenses, the Alliance business license bylaw would be in effect for Alliance until the county repealed the bylaw.

Bylaws

Currently, the village enforces four bylaws (Licensing and Control of Dogs, Nuisances and Unsightly premises, Non-Highway Vehicles, and Traffic Bylaw) through contracted services.

Upon dissolution, existing village bylaws would remain in force in Alliance until the county council either amends, repeals, or replaces them.

The county would review all village bylaws. If a village bylaw is similar to a county bylaw, the bylaw would be repealed and replaced by the county bylaw.

Where the county does not have a similar bylaw, the village bylaw may be retained for the hamlet of Alliance if it is appropriate and not inconsistent with existing county bylaws.

Flagstaff County would utilize its own peace officers for bylaw enforcement.

Capital Projects and Grants

Currently, the village has a multi-year capital infrastructure plan.

Upon dissolution, the county would complete any projects that have commenced if funding is in place. Projects underway where sufficient funding is not in place could be completed by utilizing Alliance's reserve funds.

County infrastructure plans would be amended to include Alliance.

Cemetery

The cemetery is located on village-owned land in the county. The village is responsible for the cemetery records and plot sales. The opening and closing of the plots is coordinated by the village on a user-pay basis. The Legion maintains the cemetery and columbarium.

The village receives revenue from the sale of the plots and the Legion receives the revenue from the sale of the columbarium spaces.

Upon dissolution, the ownership and records of the cemetery would transfer to the county. The county would continue to sell plots and keep the records. The opening and closing of the plots would be coordinated by the county on a user-pay basis.

The county would seek to have the Legion continue the maintenance of the cemetery.

Community Organizations - Insurance

Currently, the village has a number of community groups listed on its insurance policy. The village pays for the cost of the groups' insurance.

Upon dissolution, the county would consider including community groups on its insurance as "additional named insured". The county would bill each group for the cost of its own insurance.

Council Representation and Meetings

Council meetings are at 6:00 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. The mayor is available to meet with village residents in the village office every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The mayor and councillors are appointed to boards and committees in the community.

The village council consists of three members elected at large from the village residents. The village council appoints the mayor annually at the organizational meeting.

Flagstaff County council consists of seven members elected from seven electoral divisions. The county council appoints the reeve annually at the organizational meeting from amongst the members of council.

Upon dissolution, Alliance residents would join the county's electoral division 1. The division 1 councillor, currently Bill Reister, would represent Alliance residents as well as the residents from the rest of the division.

The county would need to consider adjusting electoral boundaries prior to the next municipal election to ensure an equal population distribution between county electoral divisions.

County council meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of each month commencing at 9:00 a.m. at the county office in Sedgewick.

Alliance residents would be represented by county councillors on boards and committees in the community. Alliance residents would be eligible for election to the county's council.

Disaster Services

Currently, the village has a Municipal Emergency Response Plan in place. Councillor George Kun is the village's disaster services coordinator. He had this volunteer position prior to coming on council and retained it.

Upon dissolution, Alliance would be included in the county's Municipal Emergency Response Plan and disaster services would be provided by the county. The disaster services coordinator for the county is the Regional Emergency Services Coordinator.

Employees and Administration

Alliance has two full-time contract employees: the chief administrative officer and the public works foreman. The village hires seasonal and part-time help as required.

Upon dissolution, village employees would be released following proper notice or severance. The county would offer to hire the former village employees for the transitional period to assist in winding down the village's affairs and ensure continuity of service to residents.

Fire and Rescue Services

The village owns the village fire hall. The volunteer fire department provides fire protection in the village. All costs are paid from general revenues.

The village has an agreement to provide fire and rescue services to a part of the county. There are two fire trucks housed in the village. The main one is owned jointly by the village and county. The older back-up truck is owned by the village.

The county provides an operating/housing grant of \$10,000 to the fire department. In addition the county and village fund communications, insurance, an honorarium for the fire fighters, and capital equipment on a 50/50 basis.

The Regional Emergency Services Coordinator acts as the regional fire chief and regional disaster services director.

Upon dissolution, the county would rely on the volunteers to continue providing fire protection services, as the county does not have its own fire department. The county would continue to provide funds for the operational and capital requirements of the fire department.

The county policy is to charge a fee for fire department responses to county fires. The county would charge Alliance residents for fire department responses in the same manner as it does county residents.

General Inquiries and Emergencies

The village office is the contact point for general inquiries, and water and sewer emergencies during regular business hours. The village foreman handles emergencies after hours. Residents can get information at the village office during regular business hours, by contacting one of the village councillors, and through the village's monthly newsletter, which promotes community events. Phone numbers of council members and staff are posted on the village office door.

Following dissolution, the county would provide a package of information about the county to residents at the time of dissolution, including an organizational chart, after hours emergency and regular contact phone numbers, and how to contact the area councillor or attend a meeting of county council.

Grants

The village currently applies for a variety of grants based on village priorities.

Upon dissolution, Alliance would no longer be eligible to apply directly for municipal grants; however, the county's allocation would increase for most grants. The county would use its grant funds to address county priorities, including those in the hamlet of Alliance. Projects and programs in Alliance, potentially funded by grants, would be considered along with the needs of the rest of the county.

Municipal Planning

Currently, the village has a land-use bylaw and contracts for municipal planning and development services.

Upon dissolution, the village's land-use bylaw would remain in effect until the county's land-use bylaw is changed to include Alliance.

The county uses the same contractor as the village for provision of municipal planning and development services.

Municipal Taxes

The village establishes municipal tax rates that generate funds to pay for programs and services provided to residents and to cover the village's debt payment. The village has a minimum tax rate of \$100 where the property tax would be below that amount.

A new business is charged 50 per cent of the property taxes in their first year of business in the village.

Upon dissolution any taxes owed to the village would be owed to the county. Dissolution would not remove the obligation of Alliance residents to pay off the village's existing debt. The county would include a special levy, as part of the property taxes levied in the hamlet of Alliance, for the annual payment on the village's existing debt.

Currently, the county does not have a minimum tax rate; however, would consider implementing a minimum tax rate following dissolution of the village.

The county would not reduce the property taxes of new businesses.

The county's 2007 combined tax rate for residential properties is approximately 55 per cent less than the village's tax rate. For non-residential properties, the tax rate is approximately 29 per cent less.

For a breakdown of the 2007 tax comparisons, refer to Tables 1 and 2 on pages 10 and 11.

Municipal Property Tax Due Dates and Penalty Schedule

Village property taxes are due in the year they are levied and are payable by July 31.

A penalty of 12 per cent is levied on unpaid current taxes after July 31, and a further penalty of 10 per cent is levied on any unpaid taxes January 1 of the following year.

Upon dissolution, Alliance property owners would receive a combined assessment and property tax notice from the county. Property taxes are due and payable by October 15 in the year they are levied and would be subject to the county's due dates and penalties. A penalty of 12 per cent is levied on unpaid taxes on October 16, and an additional 6 per cent is levied on all tax arrears on May 1 of the following year.

Municipal Property Tax Payment Options

The village offers an optional preauthorized monthly tax installment plan at no penalty cost to the tax payer.

The county does not offer an optional preauthorized monthly tax installment plan.

Museum

The Alliance and District Museum Society operates the museum. The village owns and insures the museum building. Museum artifacts belong to the Alliance and District Museum Society.

At the time of dissolution, ownership of the museum building would transfer to the county. The county would insure the building.

The society would be asked to continue to operate the museum. The county would consider including the museum on its insurance as an "additional named insured". The county would bill the museum for the cost of insurance.

Recreation Centre and Arena

The Recreation Centre is owned by the village but operated by the Fun for All Club. The library is located in this building. The village insures the building and the club pays utility costs. There is no formal agreement between the village and the club.

The Agricultural Society operates the village owned arena.

Upon dissolution, ownership of the recreation centre and arena would transfer to the county. The county would enter into an agreement with the current operators to have the groups continue to operate the facility for the benefit of all county residents.

The county would consider including community groups on its insurance as "additional named insured". The county would bill each group for the cost of its own insurance.

County owned facilities would be insured by the county.

Recreation Board

The regional recreation board, serving Alliance and part of Flagstaff County, is a committee of the village with representation from the village and county. The board is funded through a per capita grant from the county and the village. The village applies to the board for funding for the village campground and arena.

The recreation board operates the Highway #36 campground which is on village owned land.

Upon dissolution, the recreation board would be a committee of the county. The county would continue to provide funding to the board for community projects and programs.

Ownership of the Highway #36 campground would transfer to the county. The county would ask the recreation board to continue to operate the campground.

Roads

The village provides for the construction and maintenance of the road system.

Of the 7 kilometers of roads in the village, 2.1 kilometers are paved. The gravel surfaced roads receive an application of dust control agent as required.

The village clears snow from roadways, back alleys, the parking space by the community hall, and senior's driveways at no cost.

The village's practice is to clear snow on the day of the snowfall. If needed, additional equipment and labour is hired.

Upon dissolution, the county would assume the care, control and management of the village roadways. The basic level of service in the county is a well-maintained gravel-surfaced roadway; therefore, the village should expect the same level of service from the county. The county has 3.125 kilometers of roadway to maintain and has yet to determine the frequency of regular maintenance or the priority of snow removal that Alliance residents could expect.

Current policy is that dust control applications are cost shared in the county. Residents are required to pay for the cost of the dust control product and the county pays for the application. Village residents should expect to be subject to a similar policy.

The cost of any future paving or the addition of a sidewalk would be charged to residents in the form of a local improvement tax.

Street Lights

ATCO owns, operates and maintains the streetlights. The village pays the electricity costs from general revenues. In 2006, the cost was \$4,700.

The county does not have any other hamlets within its boundaries and does not provide streetlights elsewhere in the county.

Upon dissolution, residents should expect to have the cost of streetlights added to utility bills. Based on 2006 costs, this is estimated to be \$3.56 per month.

Utilities

Utility Billing

Village residents can pay utility bills by cash or cheque at the village office, by on-line banking, and at the financial institutions in Alliance.

Customers who pay \$600 for utilities prior to January 31 each year receive a five per cent discount on the basic water/sewer/garbage fee for the year.

Upon dissolution, Alliance residents would pay their utility bills to the county. The county accepts payment at the county office in Sedgewick and on-line. The county would make arrangements for payments to be made at a financial institution in Alliance.

The county would continue to give a five per cent discount to those customers who pay \$600 for utilities prior to January 31 each year.

Utility Rates

The village utilities include water, sewer, and waste management.

As of June 2007, monthly services charges are as follows:

- Water is \$30 for the first 8 cubic metres and \$1.75 for additional cubic metres;
- Sewer is \$5 if water use is under 5 cubic metres and \$10 if water use is over 5 cubic metres; and
- Garbage is \$14 for residences and \$18.15 for commercial properties.

For the period 2002 to 2006, the total revenue from water and sewer billing did not generate enough money to cover the operational costs. The deficit on operational costs, emergency repairs and debenture debt was funded from general revenues.

Upon dissolution, the county would review utility rates and adjust the rates to reflect the

county policy that utility rates pay for the full cost of providing the service. This means that utility rates could increase.

Utility System

Currently, the village owns and operates the waterworks and wastewater systems pursuant to the Code of Practice issued by Alberta Environment.

In 2002, Alberta Environment renewed the village's license to operate the water treatment lagoon. The approval required that an upgraded wastewater system be in place by May 1, 2012. The village's Multi-Year Capital Infrastructure Plan, submitted to Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation, includes upgrades to the lagoon in 2011.

The county does not operate any water and sewer utilities elsewhere in the county; therefore, upon dissolution, the county would either contract those services or would offer to employ the current operator to perform the work.

Flagstaff County would upgrade the underground utilities as required. Alliance residents would be responsible to pay the cost of future upgrading of the systems. This would be done by using one or a combination of the following sources of funding: grants, utility rates, a local improvement tax or the special reserve fund that would be set up for Alliance's assets.

Village Office

The village owns the office building. The office is open Monday to Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon.

In addition to conducting its regular municipal business, the village provides free services to residents such as filling out forms and storing sports equipments, and on a fee-for-service basis photocopying and land title transfers.

Upon dissolution, the county office in Sedgewick would provide all administrative and operational functions to residents. The county office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Upon dissolution, the village office would be surplus to the county's needs; however, the county would keep the municipal office open one day per week during a transition period.

Residents would receive notice when the office is to close and when the property would be offered for sale.

The transition period would provide the county with time to wind up the village affairs, make alternative arrangements for such things as utility payments, and provide the residents with information to access the county administration.

The county would make suitable arrangements for the residents to pay taxes and utility bills, such as paying through a local financial institution, before the village office is closed. Residents could also mail their tax and utility payments to the county administration office in Sedgewick.

Village RV Dump

The village operates an RV dump which is on privately owned land. A resolution of council provides for an annual ten per cent reduction of the property's municipal taxes.

Upon dissolution, the county would not operate an RV dump on private land nor reduce the municipal taxes of the property. The county would consider operating an RV dump on county land.

Village Sports Grounds

The village owns the Sports Grounds where the village campground and ball diamonds are located.

The village maintains and collects the fees from the village campground. The Lions Club maintains the ball diamonds.

Upon dissolution, ownership of the Sports Grounds would transfer to the county.

The county would continue to support the campground at the Sports Grounds, but would seek a local volunteer group to provide the minor maintenance required. The county would seek to have the Lions Club continue to maintain the ball diamonds.

Table 1
Alliance Residential Property Tax Comparison
2007 Municipal and School Taxes

Note: This table shows the changes that could be seen for three actual residential properties in Alliance if the village were to dissolve. Property taxes may not be the only financial cost associated with living in Alliance that would change. Utility rates could change, and additional fees may be considered for services that the Village of Alliance now provides to residents that Flagstaff County would not provide in hamlets. These factors would have an effect on the cost of living in Alliance.

<u>Village of Alliance</u>		<u>Flagstaff County</u>	
Municipal	23.8000	Municipal	5.4927
School Tax	4.0540	School Tax	3.9035
Seniors Foundation	<u>0.2110</u>	Seniors Foundation	<u>0.2003</u>
Total	28.0650	Total	9.5965
		Levy for Existing Village Debt	3.1030
2007 Comparative Tax Rate:			12.6995

If Alliance remains a village

Actual 2007 residential property taxes levied on three properties in Alliance based on the 2007 residential tax rate:

	Assessment		Village Tax Rate			Alliance Property Taxes
Property 1	\$5,910	x	28.0650 mills	x	0.001 =	\$166
Property 2	\$31,400	x	28.0650 mills	x	0.001 =	\$881
Property 3	\$101,670	x	28.0650 mills	x	0.001 =	\$2,843

Note: The village has a minimum tax rate of \$100.

If Alliance dissolves

Estimated residential property taxes for the same three properties based on the 2007 county residential tax rate plus the special levy for the annual payment on Alliance's existing debt:

	Assessment		County Tax Rate		Special Levy for Existing Village Debt		Flagstaff Property Tax
Property 1	\$5,910	x	(9.5965 mills	+	3.1030 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$75
Property 2	\$31,400	x	(9.5965 mills	+	3.1030 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$399
Property 3	\$101,670	x	(9.5965 mills	+	3.1030 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$1,291

Table 2
Alliance Non-residential Property Tax Comparison
2007 Municipal and School Taxes

Note: This table shows the changes that could be seen for three actual non-residential properties in Alliance if the village were to dissolve. Taxes may not be the only financial cost that would change. Utility rates could change, and additional fees may be considered for services that the Village of Alliance now provides that Flagstaff County would not provide in hamlets. These factors would have an effect on the cost of living in Alliance.

<u>Village of Alliance</u>		<u>Flagstaff County</u>	
Municipal	23.8000	Municipal	13.2410
School Tax	6.1520	School Tax	4.8884
Seniors Foundation	<u>0.2110</u>	Seniors Foundation	<u>0.2003</u>
Total	30.1630	Total	18.3297
		Levy for Existing Village Debt	3.1030
2007 Comparative Tax Rate:			21.4327

If Alliance remains a village

Actual 2007 non-residential property taxes levied on three properties in Alliance based on the village's 2007 non-residential tax rate:

	Assessment		Village Tax Rate			Alliance Property Taxes
Property 1	\$15,350	x	30.1630 mills	x	0.001 =	\$463
Property 2	\$37,450	x	30.1630 mills	x	0.001 =	\$1,130
Property 3	\$186,920	x	30.1630 mills	x	0.001 =	\$5,638

If Alliance dissolves

Estimated non-residential property taxes for the same three properties based on the county's 2007 non-residential tax rate plus the special levy for the annual payment on Alliance's existing debt:

	Assessment		County Tax Rate		Special Levy for Existing Village Debt		Flagstaff Property Tax
Property 1	\$15,350	x	(18.3297 mills	+	3.1030 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$329
Property 2	\$37,450	x	(18.3297 mills	+	3.1030 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$803
Property 3	\$186,920	x	(18.3297 mills	+	3.1030 mills)	x 0.001 =	\$4,006

Notes

Notes

How do I get more information?

A public meeting will be held on June 9, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the Alliance Community Hall to discuss the information in the dissolution study. Village residents will be mailed a notice of the public meeting and are encouraged to attend.

Officials from Alberta Municipal Affairs will present the dissolution study and will be available to answer your questions.

Will there be a vote on dissolution?

Yes. A non-binding vote on the question of dissolution will take place on June 16, 2008, between 10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. at the Alliance Recreation Centre.

The question on the ballot will be:

“Are you in favour of dissolving the Village of Alliance to become part of Flagstaff County?”

Alberta Municipal Affairs will administer the vote in accordance with the *Local Authorities Election Act*.

To be eligible to vote you must be:

- At least 18 years of age;
- A Canadian citizen;
- A resident of Alberta for the 6 months immediately preceding the vote; and

- A resident of the Village of Alliance on the day of the vote.

When registering to vote, residents are required to provide the **street address** or **legal description** of their home in Alliance.

What happens next?

The Minister of Municipal Affairs will then make a recommendation about whether or not the village should dissolve.

In making a recommendation, the Minister will consider this report, the views of the village and the county councils, the issues raised at the public meeting, and the results of the vote.

What will happen if the village dissolves?

If the Minister recommends dissolution to the Provincial Cabinet, and Cabinet agrees, the existing village council and administration would work with the county to wind up the village's affairs by the recommended dissolution date.

What will happen if the village does not dissolve?

The Village of Alliance will maintain its status as an incorporated municipality. The village's council will continue to be responsible for providing governance, levying taxes, and providing municipal services to the village.

For further information, contact:

Coral Callioux or Linda Reynolds of Alberta Municipal Affairs,
by dialing 310-0000 (toll free) and entering 780-427-2225.